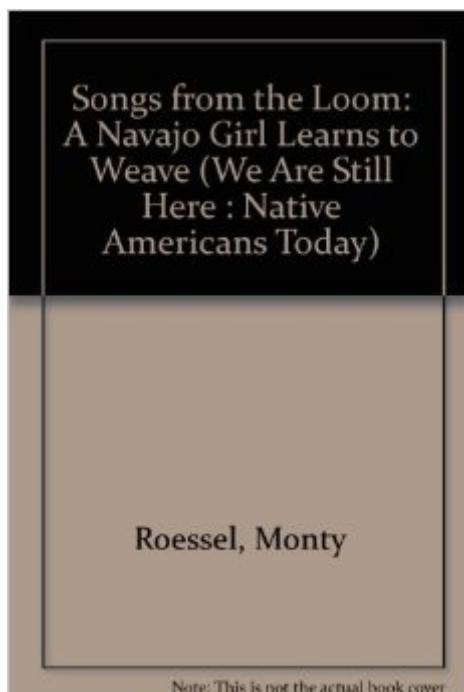


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# **Songs From The Loom: A Navajo Girl Learns To Weave (We Are Still Here : Native Americans Today)**



## **Synopsis**

In this unique series, Native American authors examine their cultural traditions, from Navajo rug weaving in the Southwest to wild rice gathering in northern Minnesota. Each book describes these customs as they are seen through the eyes of the participants and discusses how Native American people maintain their cultural identities in contemporary society. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Songs from the Loom: A Navajo Girl Learns to Weave" is the BEST, most sensitive and comprehensive children's book on the subject. Photographer and writer, Monty Roessel, took a personal approach to creating this book when he chose his daughter and his mother as subjects. He documented his ten year old daughter, Jaclyn, as her grandmother taught her to weave. The fifth grader learned about the practical aspects of weaving; like shearing sheep, carding and spinning wool, natural dyes, and weaving techniques. Nali Ruth (Grandmother) also taught Jaclyn about important Navajo stories related to weaving and the significance of each tool. This book has an informative, well written text and wonderful graphics. It has many photographs and informative diagrams. Small samples of different rug patterns appear in the margins every few pages, leading to a full page map of the regions associated with the patterns. The wooden Navajo loom is shown in a labeled drawing. The traditional stories of how weaving originated for the Navajo people are on separate pages from the rest of the text, bordered by a rug-type design. I would recommend this

book for both adults and children over 8 as a delightful way to learn about this subject. He honors his mother, his daughter, and Navajo weaving with this book. If you are buying this book for a child, "Navajo Rugs and Blankets: A Coloring Book" by Chuck and Andrea Mobley, with Sam Mike as illustrator, is a must have supplement. Children interested in "Songs From the Loom" will find themselves inspired to experience Navajo rugs and this coloring book is a great way to extend the story!

While doing research on Navajo Weaving for a lesson plan, this came up. I couldn't find much information on this book, even though it's won 2 social studies awards, so I had to buy it to learn more about it. I don't know who the target audience is but it's too difficult for my third grade students. However, I can use it as a model for my students to author stories and songs about their own cultural experiences. It does provide some background information in developing a third grade lesson plan on Navajo Weaving, although the regional rug designs are somewhat obscure. I had hoped that this book would be more about the Navajo Girl "Jaclyn" and her life, so that the students could relate to her. Like I said, it's difficult to know who the target audience is from an Elementary School perspective. There are a lot of photographs and some historic references, a map of the Navajo Reservation, and pockets of information related to Navajo Weaving. While the grandmother and girl wore traditional Navajo Clothing throughout the photos, the clothing was not explained. (Navajo Clothing is another lesson plan that I'm working on). An enclosed CD of the Song from the Loom would have been a nice addition. I see lots of potential to fill in gaps, and perhaps there will be sequels, that incorporate other aspects of Navajo Culture.

This is a great book to learn about the Navajo origin of how Navajo woman learned to weave. It tells the old story similar to the stories of Spider Woman I have heard all my life, and how she taught the Navajos to weave. More importantly, it is the story of a young girl and her grandmother. She learns how to conduct herself, how to take care of her tools, and how to make a rug from sheep, dye, and turn it into a rug.

This book offers a remarkable sharing, not just of weaving, but of cultural traditions. The reader gains a new understanding and insight of Dine philosophy. It does an exceptional job of conveying a message of mutual love and respect between generations. A good resource for classroom studies of Native Americans and how they live today.

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